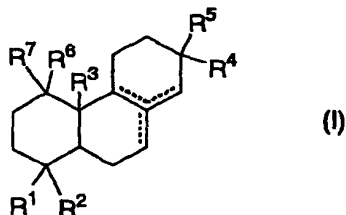


CLAIMS:

1. A potassium channel opener comprising a compound represented by the formula [I]:



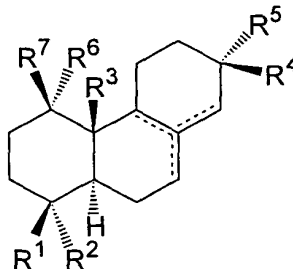
5

wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 and R^7 are each independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, halogen, hydroxy, halogenated alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkoxy, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxamate, sulfo, carbamoyl, sulfonamide, aldehyde or nitrile; or R^4 and R^5 may be bonded to each other to form a ring; or R^6 and R^7 may be bonded to each other to form a ring; and all of three bonds represented by ---- are single bonds, or one of the three bonds is double bond and the other bonds are single bonds,

15

or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof as an active ingredient.

2. The potassium channel opener according to Claim 1, comprising a compound represented by the formula:



20

wherein R^2 is hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkoxy, acyl, carboxyl, hydroxamate, sulfo, carbamoyl, sulfonamide or nitrile;

25

R^1 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 and R^7 are each independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, halogen, hydroxy, halogenated alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkoxy, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl,

carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxamate, sulfo, carbamoyl, sulfonamide, aldehyde or nitrile; or R⁴ and R⁵ may be bonded to each other to form a ring; or R⁶ and R⁷ may be bonded to each other to form a ring;

- 5 and all of three bonds represented by ---- are single bonds, or one of the three bonds is double bond and the other bonds are single bonds,

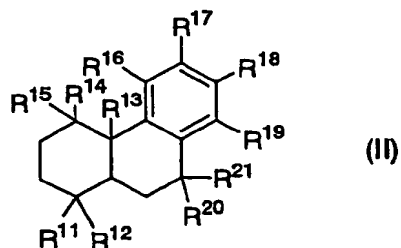
or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof as an active ingredient.

- 10 3. The potassium channel opener according to Claim 1 or 2, comprising as an effective ingredient a compound wherein R¹, R³, R⁴ and R⁵ are alkyl or alkenyl, R⁶ and R⁷ are hydrogen and R² is carboxyl, or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

- 15 4. The potassium channel opener according to Claim 1 or 2, comprising as an effective ingredient a substance selected from the group consisting of the following compounds: (1) a compound wherein R¹ is alkyl, R² is carboxyl, R³ is alkyl, R⁴ is alkenyl, R⁵ is alkyl, and R⁶ and R⁷ are hydrogen, (2) a compound wherein R¹ is alkyl, R² is carboxyl, R³ is alkyl, R⁴ is alkyl, R⁵ is alkenyl, and R⁶ and R⁷ are hydrogen, and (3) a
20 compound wherein R¹ is alkyl, R² is carboxyl, R³ is alkyl, R⁴ is alkyl, R⁵ is alkyl, and R⁶ and R⁷ are hydrogen, and a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

- 25 5. The potassium channel opener according to Claim 1, comprising as an effective ingredient a substance selected from the group consisting of pimelic acid, dihydropimelic acid, dihydroisopimaric acid, sandaracopimelic acid, isopimelic acid, and dihydroisopimelic acid, and a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

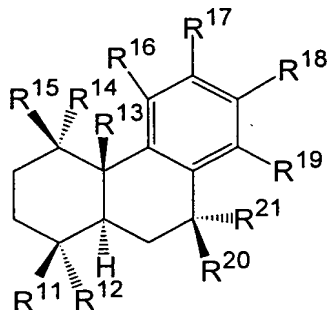
- 30 6. A potassium channel opener comprising a compound represented by the following formula (II):



wherein R^{11} , R^{12} , R^{13} , R^{14} , R^{15} , R^{16} , R^{17} , R^{18} , R^{19} , R^{20} and R^{21} are each independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, halogen, hydroxy, halogenated alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkoxy, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxamate, sulfo, carbamoyl, sulfonamide, aldehyde or nitrile; or R^{20} and R^{21} may be bonded to each other to form oxo,

or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof as an active ingredient.

7. The potassium channel opener according to Claim 6, comprising a compound represented by the formula:



wherein R^{12} is acyl, carboxyl, hydroxamate, sulfo, carbamoyl, sulfonamide or nitrile; R^{11} , R^{13} , R^{14} , R^{15} , R^{16} , R^{17} , R^{18} , R^{19} , R^{20} and R^{21} are each independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, halogen, hydroxy, halogenated alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkoxy, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxamate, sulfo, carbamoyl, sulfonamide, aldehyde or nitrile; or R^{20} and R^{21} may be bonded to each other to form oxo, or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof as an active ingredient.

8. The potassium channel opener according to Claim 6 or 7, comprising as an effective ingredient a compound wherein R^{11} ,

R^{13} , and R^{18} are alkyls, R^{12} is carboxyl, R^{14} , R^{15} and R^{16} are hydrogen, or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

9. The potassium channel opener according to Claim 6 or 7, comprising as an effective ingredient a compound wherein R^{11} ,
5 R^{13} and R^{18} are alkyls, R^{12} is carboxyl, R^{14} , R^{15} , R^{16} , R^{20} , and R^{21} are hydrogen, and R^{17} and R^{19} are halogen, or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

10. The potassium channel opener according to any claim of Claims 1 to 9, which is a calcium-activated potassium channel
10 opener.

11. The potassium channel opener according to any claim of Claims 1 to 9, which is used for prevention and/or treatment of essential hypertension, tonic bladder, airway
hyperresponsiveness, or ischemic central nervous system
15 disorder.